

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 164712
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 /047 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JHMORTON:LB
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING
-----076108 290214Z /75

R 282110Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS STATE 164712

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, GR

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING

1. THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE WAS POSTED JUNE 28 TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHICH WERE TAKEN AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 26 AND 27.

GREECE - NATO

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP OF GREECE AND NATO? YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE FINISHED, I BELIEVE, BY THE FIRST OF JUNE. NOW IT IS THE END OF JUNE.

QUESTION: THERE SEEMS TO BE AN ESCALATION IN THE WAR OF WORDS OVER THERE IN TERMS OF THEIR FLIGHT INFORMATION REGIONS, WHERE TURKEY AND APPARENTLY THE UNITED STATES SEEM

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TO SAY THAT PARTS OF THE AEGEAN AIR SPACE SHOULD BE CONTROLLED BY THE HEADQUARTERS, NATO HEADQUARTERS, IN SMYRNA.

GREECE APPARENTLY HAS INDICATED THAT, IF THAT HAPPENS, SHE WILL EVEN CONSIDER GETTING OUT OF THE POLITICAL PART OF NATO. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THIS THING, OR DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE SITUATION?

ANSWER: THE NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP
IN NATO ARE BEING ACTIVELY PURSUED AT THIS TIME. WE ARE
AS YET UNABLE TO PREDICT WHEN THIS PROCESS WILL BE COMPLETED,
BUT THE UNITED STATES IS CONFIDENT THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS
WILL LEAD TO A GREEK RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO WHICH IS SATIS-
FACTORY TO THAT COUNTRY AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE
ALLIANCE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE164712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JHMORTON:LB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780268-0556
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978069/aaaaahyx.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 02cde390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2470030
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS BRIEFING
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, GR, NATO
To: ATHENS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02cde390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014